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BIG BUSINESS FEARS JAGAN VICTORY IN B.G. POLL

From our British Guiana Correspondent.

THE PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY are off to a grand start; hard work and perseverance can now round off some 3 years of political loyalty to Guianese workers and unemployed. VICTORY WILL BE OURS, is the Party's slogan—(Thunder: Jan. 1953) and here are the preliminary tremours of the Big Business/Whitehall Twins:

"Should Dr. Jagan win a clear majority, AND THIS IS WHAT MANY GUIANESE FEAR WILL HAPPEN, the new constitution will be exposed to a severe strain . . . Their government would be bitterly opposed by the business interests of Georgetown, and by the mining and estate interests of the interior and the coast." THE TIMES BRITISH COLONIES REVIEW, WINTER 1952.

continued on back page



Mr. Sydney King

BOOS GREET CHURCHILL

WINSTON CHURCHILL, Prime Minister of Britain, interrupted his two weeks vacation which he is spending here as the guest of Sir Harold and Lady Mitchell at their fabulous palatial residence "Prospect" in ST. MARY, to attend a ceremony in Kingston, at which he was presented with the Key to the City by the Mayor.

While the ageing war-lord from Downing Street, guarded by the heaviest detachment of uniformed police, detectives, security police, and undercover men from M.I.5 and Scotland Yard yet to be seen here, received the freedom of the City, policemen jostled with demonstrating ex-Servicemen, and kept a sharp look-out for other apparently expected demonstrators.

Replying to the City's honour, Churchill's only reference to the squalid conditions he must have observed in the towns, villages and streets through which he motored in Jamaica was congratulations for Jamaica's "speedy" recovery from the hurricane of August, 1951. But he emphasised that he was particularly impressed with the parade performance of the Jamaica Battalion and expressed his appreciation and wholehearted support for the efforts to re-form the West India Regiment.

CATCALLS

Distinct boos and catcalls greeted this speech, and one notable occurrence at this function was an ex-serviceman who broke through the police cordon and demanded a hearing from the P.M. He was, however,

prevented by the intervention of four burly policemen, and as observers reported, the drawn pistol of one of the trigger-happy Scotland Yard officers.

The man was bodily removed from the scene screaming complaint of his bad conditions of life . . . He had served five years in the Air Force during the War, and to-day he has no work, nowhere to live, no visible means of feeding himself.

Churchill, after spending the night as guest of the Government at King's House, official residence of the Governor, returned to his painting on the North Coast tourist resort section of this Colony.

★
Hon. Dr.
Cheddi
Jagan
★



ST. VINCENT wins a round for CARIBBEAN NEWS

THE leader and President of the PEOPLES POLITICAL PARTY, won a great victory for his people and everyone throughout the West Indies. The battle was one of civil rights and by foiling the plans of a government bent on cutting off St. Vincent from the rest of the West Indies and its people, he has won a lasting place in the annals of our struggle for freedom, Federation and National Independence.

A motion for the banning of CARIBBEAN NEWS and all W.F.T.U. Publications figured high on the Agenda of the business before the Executive Council of that colony.

With all the rhetoric at his command, by well considered argument he completely destroyed false attacks by REACTION, winning to his side new allies and scored a victory not only for Caribbean News, but all the West Indies, indeed for a real democracy and a lasting International Solidarity.

Sedition Tactics Fail

Defended by Mr. E. P. Bruyning, of Trinidad, the Hon. E. T. Joshua, M.L.C., was cleared of charges of sedition before the Supreme Court. But still they persevere to displace a great trade union leader and there remains the charge of Public Mischief.

GOODS FOR APPEAL have been lodged with the Courts and the people are prepared to see it out to the bitter end. Every constitutional avenue will be explored and the Privy Council in London be resorted to, if necessary.

This needs hard cash: the workers striking on the sugar estates are doing their bit and our support depends on the response so far throughout the West Indies, to the JOSHUA DEFENCE COMMITTEE, set up in Trinidad. The Defence Committee is supported by the West Indian Independence Party, others including Councillors from the Port of Spain City Council. The address is TREASURER, 10 St. Paul Street, Port of Spain, TRINIDAD.

Kingston, JAMAICA, 17th January.

Trinidad Pay Rise

THE Trinidad Government has reached agreement with F.W.T.U., on behalf of its 10,000 daily paid workers to pay a bonus calculated on the basis of 4 cents per day for every 2 point rise in the Index of retail prices.

Starting at a datum line of 100 in January, 1952 and to 106 points in July 1952. The workers are therefore

entitled to 12 cents a day more in wages. The F.W.T.U. has recently won an arbitration award in a dispute with Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission. The award has now finally decided that the wage increase of 3 cents per hour granted by the T. & T.E.C. to its manual employees will be made effective from 15th October, 1950, instead of 1st January, 1951, as originally decided by the Commission.

DEMOCRACY *versus* DICTATORSHIP

MR. Ken Hill, former political leader and one-time Mayor of Kingston, has ended up supporting reaction and dictatorship against the will of the people who gave him stature. Hill claims that "either Mr. Hart or I will lead their Party. NOT both..." Hill demands that the President shall appoint the Executive of the NATIONAL LABOUR PARTY. The progressives who oppose this within the Party are championed by Richard Hart.

It is difficult to overcome the ideology that has suffocated our lives from the times of our grandmothers until to-day. How many other political careerists have fallen into this mire of false power? It is not the first time that we have seen the induced selfishness triumph over the better side of leaders.

Britain is rich with examples, of Attlees, Stracheys, Creech-Joneses. In the West Indies we have the Bustamantes, Adamases, Manleys, Gomeses. Why should we be immune?

The formation of the NATIONAL LABOUR PARTY was forced by mass demands of the people. With the withdrawal of the 4 Hs from the Peoples National Party after Manley has exposed himself and colleagues as wreckers of working-class unity, there would have been a political vacuum.

The Struggle Continues

But the people were victorious, and new blood like the Mitchell twins, Clem McKoy, Chris Lawrence, Harry Drayton (originally of British Guiana) sprung to the fore, and

strengthened Richard Hart, a life-long stalwart of the national movement.

These elements were soon to be the BETE NOIR of imperialism, and their allied stooges,

From our Jamaican Correspondent

viz., the STAR (evening newspaper), etc. The church, too, has played its part but the hard work and sincerity of disciplined politicians can only win the highest commendation in the end.

The struggle for national self-government is simplified. It is no less intense but the sheep are clearly defined from the goats.

"Forward to Freedom"

The chapter of dictatorship has closed in Jamaica. The forthcoming victories for democracy will first be witnessed by the National Labour Party. Setbacks may occur, but the will of the people will prevail. The victory of the people is a victory for democracy—the first stage to National Independence!

British T.U. Solidarity with West Indies

SPEAKING to the West Norwood Branch of the AMALGAMATED ENGINEERING UNION, at Herne Hill, the Secretary of the C.L.C. LONDON BRANCH was heartily applauded, when he asserted that

"solidarity between the British workers and those of the colonial territories would see an end, an absolute end, to colonial barbarity and its instigators, the big bosses of the engineering and other British industries."

The trade union branch had invited a West Indian speaker on the COLOUR-BAR to address one of their regular members' meetings on Friday, 23rd January. Billy Strachan was appointed.

Basing the talk on working-class unity, the coloured West Indian wholly attributed the colour-bar to the schemes of the big businessmen, who owned the colonial companies exploiting tin in Malaya, Cocoa in West Africa, Sugar, Oil, Gold and Bauxite in the West Indies. These same businessmen owned the refining plants in Britain, and these were the same opponents the trade union representatives met here across the negotiating table, when fighting for higher wages and better conditions.

The alliance was obvious; Brother Strachan, hailing from Jamaica himself, gave a few illustrations of conditions.

COLONIAL PARADISE—Mr. Churchill?

Unemployment 1 in 3, or approximately 200,000 from a total labour force of barely 600,000. No dole, one hospital catering in a city of a population of 150,000, with only two doctors for attending out-patients; wages in the sugar industry (largest in island) averaging 12/- per week, with sugar, bread, margarine and butter, and in fact everything else, more costly than in Britain.

The response was a credit to the trade union movement. After referring to the recent arrest of the Hon. E. T. Joshua, M.L.C., President of the Federated Industrial and Agricultural Workers' Union of ST. VINCENT, with the associated treatment by the police, the A.E.U., WEST NORWOOD Branch, immediately voted a donation of £2 10s. 0d. to the JOSHUA DEFENCE COMMITTEE set up in

continued at foot of next column

£ Treasure Chest £

THE Elizabethan era of dash, death and plunder still flourishes in JAMAICA, in the tradition of British Governors like Sir Henry Morgan—the pirate.

THE CARIBBEAN CEMENT COMPANY in the first 11 months of its operation has dug out of our country £150,000. This is a free and gratis present to a few sleek New Yorkers and their business friends in London.

But this is not all; in 11 months of production and trading this new foreign-controlled octopus has

- (a) repaid £75,000 it had borrowed,
- (b) paid interest of £6 for every £100 in-

New Constitution for British Honduras

A NEW Constitution has been proposed for British Honduras in a dispatch from Oliver Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, to the Governor of that territory. This arose out of the reports of a Commission of Inquiry and a Select Committee of the Legislative Council.

Under this new Constitution as proposed by Mr. Lyttelton, the Legislative Council will comprise 3 official members, 3 nominated, 9 elected members, and a Speaker appointed to preside.

The Executive Council, chief policy making instrument will consist of 3 official members, 4 members selected from the Legislative Council by the elected members, 2 from the nominated members of the Legislative Council. The Governor will be Chairman and will have a casting vote. The Governor's reserve powers remain. This line-up a decisively against the elected members.

The biggest gain by the people is universal suffrage which will extend the vote to the poorest workers. But with all, the proposed new constitution brings no real independence for the people of British Honduras. It is a sop handed out by Whitehall to try to calm the rising tide of the mass movement, to try to calm the rising tide of the mass movement, without surrendering an iota of its stranglehold.

A general election may be held in January, 1954.

from column 1
Trinidad.

What an example to set the pattern for both sides of a trans-atlantic alliance that will win Peace for the whole world and NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE FOR THE COLONIAL PEOPLE.

Guided Missile Plan — B. G. Protest

On the occasion of the visit by U.S.—British Military Mission to investigate the possibilities of establishing a radar guiding station in British Guiana, (Daily Graphic, 29th. Jan. 1953) the British Guiana Peace Committee issued the following statement:—

THE recent news of the survey of our territory by the U.S.—British Imperialists for the purpose of extending the U.S. sponsored war project so-called the Florida Guided Missile Range, by building on our territory a radar guiding station for rocket propelled guided missiles, has shocked all peace-loving West Indians and the people of our territory in particular.

IN the event of a World War being declared, the presence on our soil of any military base means inevitably, the bombing of our territory by the oppressor.

THE existence of the so-called Florida Guided Missile Range under U.S.—British war agreements and the establishment of war bases on West Indian soil constitutes a danger to the lives and security of our people and would involve us in a war against our will.

THIS attempt to further involve the West Indian people in the strategic war plans of the U.S.—British warmongers will be resolutely fought and defeated the united struggle of the Peace-loving West Indian People who are demanding an end to the arbitrary agreements made between the Governments of the United States of America and Great Britain without the consent of our people, the right to National Independence and the right to choose our own way of life without any interference in our internal affairs, under any pretext whatever, by any other state.

invested in Ordinary Shares, and

- (c) given away £25 for every £100 stock invested, which is termed a Stock Dividende—20th Century language for 16th Century plunder!

The Cement & General Development Corporation of NEW YORK, are said "to participate in the management" of this new company. Uncle Sam has stepped in and now wants some of the spoils that John Bull has claimed for some time.

Jamaicans can now understand the full and true implications of the Pioneer Industries Laws put on the Statute Books during recent years.

Jamaica Sugar Estates

Sugar still provides much Sweetness for some people; look, £38,019 left as a gift, or NETT PROFITS, after all wages, overhead expenses, repairs and depreciation, income and company taxes have been paid!

The published accounts might even give the impression that business has deteriorated, but see what has gone surreptitiously into the idlers' pockets. With glee the shareholders of the capitalist class take £6 for every £100 of the doubled capital over the last year. A year ago they only took £10 for each £100 of half the equivalent.

Easy money, eh! and still the company has £25,339 to carry forward as a sort of reserve—maybe the trade unions will remember this for next crop!

Protests against Brutality

Kingstown, ST. VINCENT.—The St. Vincent People's Political Party recently passed resolutions at a public meeting protesting against the treatment of workers in South Africa and Kenya by imperialist Britain. Demanding an end to the "killing and brutality" the meeting called for solidarity among all oppressed colonial peoples.

British Guiana Strike

Plantation Uitvlugt, BRITISH GUIANA.—The workers of sugar estate Pln. Uitvlugt went on a one-day strike in protest against the threat by Bookers Demerara Sugar Estates to terminate the employment and tenancy on the estate of a factory worker who, it is alleged "abused the administrative manager."

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Editorial

ON April 27th, the people of British Guiana will go to the polls to choose their representatives for the first time under universal adult suffrage.

They will have a chance of selecting a larger proportion of elected representatives than they had under the previous Constitution. But even the most "advanced" Constitution in the West Indies will leave the essential control of power in the hands of Whitehall.

Despite this, however, Guianese have the opportunity of expressing their feelings against colonialism which subjects them to poverty and robs them of their natural riches.

The overriding fact that stands out in the situation is Imperialism and the necessity for mass united action by all classes against this common enemy.

Programme

WHEN they go to the polls, however, the people will have to contend with those who consciously or unwittingly lend themselves to supporting the foreign rulers, and against those who place themselves before the good of the people who elect them.

Fortunately, the people of British Guiana will not be left out in the cold, for they have a Party which has a programme that can meet their problems, and a core of leaders who know what they are about and who put the interests of the masses first. They are not dazzled by favours from the ruling powers.

Outstanding about British Guiana is the People's Progressive Party and the support it has won.

Who likes it?

ONE of the signs of a party standing firm with the people is the hatred of the rulers and the affection of the people for it. Sometimes the influence of the P.P.P. is expressed in a roundabout way. Many Guianese when asked about the popularity of the P.P.P. would first say "they don't like the P.P.P. in B.B.", but when asked further—who don't like it?—the inevitable reply is "The Government. But—the ordinary people support it."

Other amorphous political groupings have arisen, some of which are solely to combat the P.P.P., to try to take away some of its support. But the success of the P.P.P. lies in that it has a progressive programme and approach which suits the people, and no amount of manoeuvring by its opponents can conceal this



A German Young Pioneer makes friends with W.F.T.U. Vice-President, Lazaro Pena of Cuba.

fact.

In standing for Federation and National Independence, the party is upholding the best interests of Guianese, and West Indians as a whole. Undoubtedly, if as the TIMES fears, the P.P.P. wins a majority of elected seats in the Legislative Council, this would give an immeasurable lift to the whole question of Federation in the West Indies.

The Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) which has as its principle aims—Federation and Independence of the West Indies—wishes the People's Progressive Party of British Guiana all success in their first real test.

Faithful worker

BILLY STRACHAN, Secretary of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch) has had to undergo an operation, as a result of a war injury sustained in the Air Force while defending democracy in World War II. He is now in Roehampton Hospital and will be there for several months.

Billy Strachan has continued to fight unwaveringly and consistently like no other West Indian for democracy for his homeland. Though temporarily subdued, we know that Billy will emerge fighting fit into the arena of struggle for West Indian Independence which he holds dear.

All the best, Billy!

MIGRATION IS NO SOLUTION

From Reader-Correspondent
Eric Deslandes

IT is becoming increasingly clear to everyone that mass migration of West Indians to foreign countries cannot effectively solve unemployment and other economic problems prevailing in the British West Indies to-day.

I am being reminded of this fact everytime I speak to a West Indian in this country.

Over the past ten years it is estimated that over half a million West Indians have migrated (mostly Jamaicans), and the places they went to include the U.S.A., Great Britain and the Latin and South American republics. Many went on visits, some as students, but the majority are workers seeking better opportunities.

Any West Indian who has been abroad particularly those in search of employment, realises that it is no easy life. For when it is not strange climatic conditions, it is the colour of one's skin which makes all the difference in many countries to-day.

Individual case

Let's take the case of a 36-year-old Jamaican

plumber whom I met recently. At the age of fifteen he left school and went to learn plumbing. For the first six months he was paid 2/6d. per week "as an encouragement". After serving this period of apprenticeship he received 7/- per week; and another rise after completing two more years brought his salary to 25/- per week.

He packed up the job after serving five years with the Firm, and started out on his own. He soon found, however, that he was no better off financially as his earnings were inconsistent.

At the outbreak of the War he went to Panama along with other Jamaicans to work on the Canal

Letters to the Editor and contributions from readers should be reasonably short.

Zone, where he spent eighteen months. Returning to Jamaica he was soon off again, this time to the U.S.A. as a Farm labourer.

There he stayed for five years and fortified with the modest savings of £400 he returned home in 1949 and deposited a portion of his capital on a house which he needed for his wife and four children. His next move was to find a job which he failed to procure after six months' search. In desperation he decided

BUCHAREST FESTIVAL

Caribbean News Reporter

IT'S here at last! What everyone between the age of 14 and 30 has been waiting for—the announcement of the Fourth World Youth Peace Festival!

The Council of the W.F.D.Y. meeting recently in Prague announced that the Festival will be held in Bucharest, capital of People's Rumania, from August 2nd to 21st.

The number of participants will be greater and the quality of the entertainments will be even better than at the last Festival in Berlin. And anyone who was in Berlin can vouch for the splendour of the festivities there.

The British Youth Festival Committee meeting in Nottingham on March 1st, with delegates attending from all over Britain and representing colonial youth studying or working in this country, will launch the campaign and activities for getting a bigger contingent from Britain this year.

The cost of the trip will be worked out and announced shortly, but it is to be expected that it will not be much more than the cost for the Berlin Festival.

SAVINGS SCHEME

A savings scheme has been started to make it easier to accumulate the money by now and August. West Indian readers wishing more information about the details of the Festival in Bucharest should write to the Secretary, West Indian Festival Preparatory Committee, 45 Brondesbury Villas, N.W.6.

The cost, which may be £25 to £30, covers travel accommodation, food, all entertainments for the two week period.

This Festival with the accent on the youth of the world getting together for Peace—competing in friendly sports events, and enjoying the cultural contributions from the different countries, will be of tremendous significance for drawing together the bonds or common interests among young people of varying political, religious, and racial backgrounds.

**FORTY-FIVE West Indians went to Berlin.
LET US DOUBLE THAT NUMBER FOR
BUCHAREST!!**

to try his luck in England where he is now working on his trade earning the average of £10s. 0d. a week. Here is a story which crystallises the experiences of thousands of West Indians.

Hundreds stranded

I know for a fact that hundreds of West Indians are stranded in Britain. I have seen them in Cardiff, Liverpool, Birmingham and London. For some reason or other they have not been able to find and keep jobs. Yet always when you ask them: "Why don't you go home", it is always the same answer—the fear of unemployment. This fear is made even more poignant by the absence of properly organised Labour Exchanges, National Assistance, unemployment benefit and free health services in the West Indies.

It was pointed out to me recently that there are over 1,000 West Indians with University degrees in Britain alone. Hundreds more are in the U.S.A. and Canada. The West Indians could benefit greatly from the knowledge and experience of these "sons of the soil", but they prefer to remain abroad where they earn a more lucrative salary.

There is another aspect of the whole situation which must not be overlooked too.

When West Indians are forced through unemployment to migrate and suffer exploitation or the consequences of a colour bar policy, the majority return home very nationalistic. I formed this impression by the remarks of several West Indians whom I have spoken to on the subject.

What they think

Mr. Sydney, a 26-year-old electrician from British Guiana had this to say: "If by the attitude of the British people, we are convinced that we are not wanted here, then why should we roll out the red carpet to them in our country?"

Another West Indian, 24-year-old J. Vass Jackson, a book-keeper from Kingston, Jamaica, expressed similar views. He told me: "I have learnt by experience that the average British person knows precious little and cares infinitely less about conditions in the Colonies to-day."

As I said at the outset, migration is not the answer to our economic problems. More and intensive industrialisation is the only way out, and this should receive greater impetus when Self-Government and Federation becomes a reality.

Whose failure?

In the meantime, the pertinent question arises—Is it Colonial administration which has failed in the West Indies, or could it be that West Indians themselves are to be blamed for current conditions?

Evidence on all sides points to the former. For West Indians have proven by their very willingness to work, by the fact that they are migrating in the thousands, that had opportunities been available to them at home then they would have made a success of life there.

West Indian Youth discuss their problems

IN spite of the many utterances of improvement and progress in the colonies by British colonial rulers one has only to study the facts or have a look around to see the magnitude of the lie.

For instance, in Jamaica 50 thousand young persons between the ages of 16 and 23 are unemployed, and one in every hundred children in primary schools has the chance of a University education. In British Guiana 90% of the children examined showed evidence of dental caries—a sign of nutritional deficiency.

What a gloomy prospect for West Indian youth. But do we have to be satisfied with such conditions and leave them unchallenged?

The West Indian Youth Conference to be held in London on the 1st March gives West Indians in Britain the opportunity of answering the question.

Here the rights of West Indian youth to employment, education, social security, social and recreational facilities and holidays with pay, is to be discussed. The majority of West Indians in Britain know only too well the problems here and in the West Indies.

At this Conference, support will be given to the International Conference in Defence of the Rights of Youth to be held in Vienna from March 22nd to 27th. It is hoped that a delegate will be mandated to attend.

Young Dutch workers at the Wester Sugar Refinery in Amsterdam realised the serious threats of a new war, the preparations for which must inevitably cause a decline in their living standards. They knew that

the cost to them was to suppress the Indonesians.

On the initiative of the young workers of Wester Refinery who have found united action necessary, the World Federation of Democratic Youth agreed to organise the Conference.

This common platform on which the youth of many countries can meet and demand their rights is necessary in no small measure.

THE WEST INDIAN YOUTH PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SENDS GREETINGS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN DEFENCE OF THE RIGHTS OF YOUTH, VIENNA, MARCH 22-27.

... and in B.G.

From our British Guiana Correspondent
GEORGETOWN

YOUNG people assembled at the Colony wide Conference for the Solution of Problems Facing Youths and Youth Movements held in Georgetown on January 31st and February 1st called upon Government to solve the problem of unemployment among the youth. This Conference summoned by the Pioneer Youth League also passed a resolution demanding political freedom for all workers. This was pointing to the recent government ban on political activities for civil servants and government employees.

The Conference requested that the Technical Institutes be open to all youth leaving primary and secondary schools and demanded that a Committee of Inquiry be set up to go into the conditions of work of young mechanics and engineers with a view to setting out a minimum wage scale.

BOSSSES TRY TO BREAK UNION

GEORGETOWN, Feb. 4th

THE B.G. Shipping Association has broken off negotiations with the B.G. Labour Union stating in a letter yesterday: "... in the light of recent events, the interests of workers and employers and indeed of the Colony, are seriously prejudiced by the fact that the principal executives of the British Guiana Labour Union have openly allied themselves with an organisation led by persons whose activities, in the view of this association, are not in the best interests of the workers or the welfare of the Colony. To enable the negotiations to proceed, therefore, it is up to the workers themselves to re-organise their union affairs so as to give the union a better status, by choosing representatives who will have at heart the interests of the workers and the waterfront as a whole, and command the trust and confidence of all concerned."

The employers have been making several efforts to break the union since the time certain officers have been connected with the People's Progressive Party. Recently, 12 workers active in the union were victimised and as a result have been unable to obtain employment. This flagrant violation of trade union principles has shocked observers here.

INFORMATION has reached Caribbean Peoples News Service that copies forwarded are not being received in London, though they have been regularly mailed there. Apparently the Churchill boys are at their usual game of pinching and suppressing information.

CPNS requests that all our readers write our address by registered mail so that we can check on the "pinching" of the imperialists.

A Reader's View on FEDERATION

THE Federation of the West Indies is imperative not for the creation of administrative capacities nor for the power to injure neighbouring states, but for the economic production of indispensable commodities on which the health and prosperity of our entire society depend.

To pave the way for a profitable unification of the West Indies, individual states should commence without much longer delay the reclassification of lands and a down-to-floor industrial survey. A reclassification of lands based on an analytical framework would enable us to determine the true nature and acreage of arable lands throughout the West Indies; and an industrial survey to give exactly what each country could produce economically.

It is no use trying any longer to be the world's most perfect customers and pay through the nostrils for the products of other countries, while the industrial evolution of the entire West Indies is hampered through lack of sales in countries beyond the Caribbean border. The population of the West Indies is increasing steadily, therefore it is our duty to put into operation every practicable measure to save them from the unpleasant consequences of an empty cupboard.

The amount of capital investment which countries outside the West India group of islands is allowed to invest in the West Indies should now be reduced by 50%, which would allow more West Indian businessmen and women time to emerge and grip a higher percentage of their country's finance.

I wish to see the entire population of the West Indies grow up to be free and independent, which we would never be able to attain once we permit the finance to slide into the hands of absent capitalists.

GREETINGS

— from W.E.B. Dubois

MESSAGE from W. E. B. DUBOIS, renowned American historian, member of the World Peace Council:

"May I send greetings to the World Federation of Democratic Youth on the Day of expression of the Unity and Solidarity of the Youth in the struggle against colonialism.

"I am glad to note the meeting of all students, but especially those of Asia and Africa, for the great purpose of Peace and Freedom.

"I wish you every success."

— from Georgetown

WARMEST greetings and best wishes for the success of Caribbean News, for the success of our long struggle for World Peace, for Bread, for Federation and for the Independence of our country from the oppressive domination of the British Warmongers now plundering our country's wealth in the interest of maximum profit, their rearmanent programmes and the militarisation of the people at the behests of the Warmongers of the United States of America; and from the growing influence of bellicose United States lynchings who, to the intense hatred of their servile British accomplices, are now sinking their grisly talons into the flesh of our people while filing their teeth in preparation for a world-wide slaughter—the base but futile ideal

of all such warmongering cannibals.

On behalf of the Peace-loving West Indian People, the British Giana Peace Committee wishes the staff and readers of Caribbean News and all West Indians in England and at home, greater strength and success in the struggle for Peace and Independence in 1953.

(Signed) Martin Carter Rory Westmaas
Chairman Secretary

"CN" FUND

We wish to thank all readers and friends who have contributed nearly £3 to our fund to keep Caribbean News on its feet financially. We appeal to our sincere friends not to slacken their efforts but to increase their contributions by collecting from others.

Send contributions to "CN" FUND, 45 Brondesbury Villas, London, N.W.6.

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FORCED LABOUR IN THE U.S.A.

STETSON KENNEDY, an American journalist, and his wife collected over a number of years detailed information on debt slavery in the United States. This evidence was presented to the United Nations Commission on Forced Labour, and we consider it of such importance that we reprint below extracts taken from the magazine "World Trade Union Movement" of 16-31 January, 1953, by courtesy of the Editor.

WE soon discovered that things had vastly worsened. Not only has forced labour increased tremendously, but the violence employed to enforce it has been intensified. The forced labourer who has not been beaten with a pistol, club, or lash is a rarity. Among the current evils—generally assumed by the American people to have passed out of existence at least a decade ago—we found:

People being captured, bought, and sold into slavery for as little as \$5 and as much as \$500 per head.

Men and women allege being tortured and beaten.

People being forced to live in barbed-wire closures and forced to work under armed guards.

People being bound in chains, both off and on the chain-gangs.

Women and children being held as hostages to ensure the return of escaped men to slavery.

Workers being rounded up by law officers on charges of "vagrancy," and forced to work for any white men who pay their fines.

Wives of Negro forced labourers being forced to submit to white overseers; if the women or her husband resist, both may be beaten or shot.

Men's wives being taken from them and assigned to live with other men at the pleasure of the overseer.

Let me describe the typical American forced labour camp. In almost every instance they are deep in the woods or otherwise isolated from other communities. The primitive shacks which house the workers are generally one- or two-room affairs constructed of rough boards which are discarded by lumber mills.

The forced labour camps vary in size, with some operations extending over thousands of acres and involving so many families that the owners actually do not know how many people they are exploiting. In such large enterprises the ownership is often absentee—with Wall Street the focal point of much of it.

Commissary Racket

The company-owned commissary, where the workers are required to purchase the necessities of life at exorbitant prices, is the cornerstone of the forced labour system in America. By this means, a majority of the workers are kept perpetually in debt, so that they receive little if any money for their work.

More than 4,200 companies are banded together in the National Industrial Stores Association, and their commissaries do an aggregate business of one billion dollars annually. Authoritative surveys have revealed that in many of these commissaries prices are as much as 60 per cent higher than elsewhere. In addition to those employed agriculture, turpentine, and lumbering, workers in the textile, mining, canning and steel industries have been sorely afflicted with commissaryism.

The food sold by most commissaries is calculated barely to keep the workers alive. Generally it consists of such staples as grits, corn meal, dried beans, salted or smoked fat bacon, and a few canned goods. Fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, milk, eggs, butter and the like are unheard of. One forced labourer told us that each Sunday his camp commissary offered a choice of "pig ears, pig tails, or pig feet." Another, when asked how often his commissary offered fresh meat, replied: "Neither weekly nor yearly."

Alternative—Chaingang

It is by virtue of debts, real and alleged, owed at

the commissary that most of America's forced labourers are held in bondage. The fact that the U.S. Constitution forbids debtors' prisons is without effect. "Don't you know that one can force you to work against your will in satisfaction of a debt?" I asked a group of forced labourers.

"They do it," was their laconic reply.

As the forced labourers themselves put it, the alternative to working out both real and alleged debts is to "chaingang it"; that is, to be sentenced to hard labour on the county road gangs or prison farms.

Though the ball-and-chain have to some extent been supplanted by a three-foot steel spike welded around the ankle, life on the chaingang is still so rigorous that it has become increasingly common for prisoners to cripple themselves by severing the tendons of their heels.

Penalty

The usual punishment for running away is a severe flogging, but sometimes the penalty is death. As a forced labourer named Robert Graves told us, in describing the Babcock Lindsey plantation, "If you left owing the Bossman even \$5 and he caught you he would kill you, and you would have to die, because they would bury you. He would make other workers dig the graves out in the woods."

Symbolic of this form of terrorism is the toe of a lynched Negro which reposes in a jar of alcohol on a commissary counter in North Carolina. Asked whether he would personally lynch a Negro, the proprietor replied, "No no, I wouldn't—not unless he owed me money."

Beaten

Cleo Johnson was beaten by a foreman at the Dawkin's Turpentine Camp at High Springs, Georgia, for not having fed her husband breakfast in time for him to go to work before daybreak. When her husband Ulysses protested, the foreman clubbed him into unconsciousness.

Charles Andrews was beaten with a pineknut while another overseer held a gun on him for trying to escape from a camp near Bunnell, Florida.

Bobby White, 21-year-old Negro worker at the sawmill of McDuffie Stallworth of Pineapple, Alabama was locked up in a garage, tied, and flogged with a chain for trying to report as ordered to his military draft board.

Sibyl McKee, a Negro girl who cooked for Stallworth, was forced to turn up her dress over her back so he could beat her.

James Day, a Negro turpentine worker, escaped from the plantation of William Balote at Mentor,



In the Southern States, lynch law reinforces the subjection of the negro.

Georgia. Day's children were held as hostages, and the F.B.I. and U.S. District Attorney would do nothing to help him reclaim them. When Day went into court to force their release, he was jailed on a charge of abandoning them. The Sheriff offered to let him out of jail if he would agree to go back to work for Balote.

On the basis of our observations, the record I had kept through the years, and other reliable sources, we were forced to conclude that at the very least one and a half million native-born Americans are currently being held in forced labour.

"Wet Backs"

It was also discovered that during the past decade, the U.S. Government, at the behest of American planters, has permitted the importation of some thing like four million workers from nearby colonial and semi-colonial areas. The bulk of these are so-called Mexican "wetbacks"—illegal immigrants permitted to come into the U.S. across the Rio Grande River by the U.S. Immigration Service.

West Indians

The next largest group of imported forced labourers consists of Negroes from the British West Indies. During the period from 1943 to 1950, a total of 93,178 of these were brought in with the sanction of the U.S. Government. Besides these, there are about 10,000 Puerto Ricans who are working on U.S. farms under contracts sanctioned by the U.S. Government; and many more have been imported and peonized while the Government turned its back.

But just as the planters must generally pay out so much per head to acquire "wetbacks," they must also post surety bonds with the U.S. Immigration Service in importing contract labour. The bond required is \$100 for each Jamaican, \$50 for each Bahaman, and \$25 for each Mexican. At least a third of the Mexicans who have been brought in under contract have escaped from the plantations to which they were assigned, and in such cases the planters must forfeit the bonds, which therefore are tantamount to being the purchase price of the workers.

These Negroes and whites who live in the Southern U.S. and believe in a real democracy without racial discrimination are deemed by the overlords of the region to harbour "dangerous" thoughts (the Charleston, South Carolina, NEWS & OBSERVER recently said as much), and the forced labour system is one of the means employed to repress such sentiments. Although more and more southern Negroes are defying the terror and marching to the polls, five millions of voting age were deterred from balloting in the national election of November 4.

★ Cricket

TEST WIN FOR WEST INDIES

THE Tour opened in Trinidad where the colony game and the first Test both ended in a draw.

A grand undefeated knock of 153 by Hazare, the Indian captain, was the outstanding feature of the colony game. Someone who was seeing the Indian captain for the first time during this game remarked that Hazare was the most defensive batsman he had ever seen.

In the Test, Everton Weekes made a double century, while young Bruce Pairaudeau, of British Guiana, joined the select band of cricketers who have made a century in their first Test innings.

For India, Umrigar batted well to make a century. The next two games were played in Barbados. In the colony game Weekes again batted brilliantly scoring a double century, but the match ended in a tame draw with

Manjrekar scoring a not-out century in India's second innings.

The Second Test was a low scoring game. West Indies batted first to score 296, Walcott being top scorer with 98. India in reply scored 253. There was some good bowling by Valentine whose figures were:

overs	m.	runs	wkts.
41	—	21	—
58	—	4	—

Or 4 for 58

Unlucky Indian Start

In the second innings the West Indies fared even worse, scoring 228, setting India 272 to win. The Indian second innings started badly by losing both the openers for only 13 runs, but ended that day at 54 for 2. On the following day there was some fine bowling by Ramadhin, whose figures were 24.5 overs, 11 maidens, 26 runs, 5 wickets. And India were all out for 129, giving West Indies victory by 142 runs.

B.G. Poll

(★ from page 1)

APRIL 27th IS POLLING DAY. A victory for racial unity on a class basis is a worthy prize for all the Guianese who, led by the Hon. Dr. Cheddi Jagan, Member of the Legislative Council, and L. F. S. Burnham, Chairman of the Party, have isolated the foreign business exploiters and their hand-picked fifth columnists.

Jagan, of East Indian racial origin, is supported by a white wife who has been tagged by one London capitalist newspaper as THE ANGEL OF THE SUGAR ESTATES; on account of the white sari she sometimes wears out of respect for the fashions of the Indian plantation workers.

Mr. L. F. S. Burnham, successful in the TOWN COUNCIL elections and a former Vice-President of the Caribbean Labour Congress, LONDON BRANCH, has indicated the trend with his victory as elected President of the BRITISH GUIANA LABOUR UNION. Space does not permit the interminable list of supporters that have made the PPP Guiana's Party.

Mrs. Janet Jagan is General Secretary of the PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY, and her greatest tower of strength is SIDNEY KING, a Church of England schoolteacher recently returned from the Congress of Peoples for Peace in Vienna, Austria, and from the Hungarian People's Republic.

FREE EXPRESSION

Within the PPP Martin Carter, the leading West Indian revolutionary working-class poet, has emerged. The sugar cane labourers have seen their cases championed by the most powerful working-class party in the British West Indies; the sawmill workers know the sub-employees in the Government service know where to look for support of their demands—don't you see?

C. L. C. DANCES

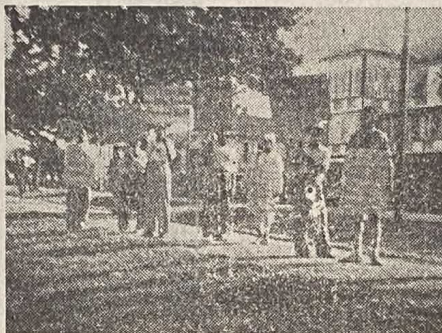
PLEASE NOTE CHANGES IN DATES & PLACES

SATURDAY, March 14th.
London School of Printing
7-11 p.m. Tube: Waterloo.

SATURDAY, April 4th
Royal Hotel
7-11 p.m. Tube: Russell Square.

SATURDAY, June 6th
London School of Printing
7.30-11.30 p.m. Tube: Waterloo.

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People's Progressive Party members protest against ban on Billy Strachan and Ferdinand Smith's entry into British Guiana

All Guiana is going to make it GUIANA, and see the end of both the B for Bookers and B for British.

The PPP is the party for Federation; it is the Party that will give the lie to all the prostituted Press in Britain that misrepresents, lies, distorts, and FEARS THE TRUTH about the West Indies.

These are the platforms that are winning support from the Guianese, that work at MacKenzie, that toil in the Rupini and are a herald of the brightest future for all the West Indies:

POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE

- (a) SELF GOVERNMENT FOR BRITISH GUIANA.
- (b) Acceptance of CARIBBEAN FEDERATION, with
 1. Dominion Status.
 2. Internal self-government to each unit.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- (c) Effective democratic control of all major industries.
- (d) Land reform and properly planned land settlement schemes.
- (e) Work for ALL, by economic planning.

There is in the PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY programme provision for Social Security for the old-aged, unemployment insurance, equal pay for equal work, improved housing, trade union freedom, the fight for Peace, and education for every category all of which add up to the confidence that makes the Peoples Progressive Party proclaim:

VICTORY WILL BE OURS !!

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Colonial Students want better Conditions

from LIONEL JEFFREY
Secretary, Co-ordinating Council

ON the 24th and 25th January a conference was held by the Co-ordinating Council of British Colonial and Dominion Students. Many readers of Caribbean News will be hearing of the Co-ordinating Council for the first time. But for all Colonials this conference is of special importance. It is important because for the first time Students from the various Colonies, Dominions, and Commonwealth met as one to discuss and prepare some programme of campaign to combat the common problems and difficulties facing us all in this country.

At the Conference were delegates from various Colonial Student Organisations. To those of us who were present it was strengthening to hear delegates from Africa, India, West Indies, South Africa, Malaya, Cyprus state with one voice their disgust for the treatment to which their Students were subjected during their period of study in this country.

The Problems

The discussion was under three heads:—

- (1) Housing and Accommodation;
- (2) Education and Study facilities;
- (3) Social aspects and Sport.

Under the first head it was pointed out that landlords realising that Colonial Students, because of their colour are always in search of accommodation, look upon these as an easy means of making huge and unreasonable profit. It was further pointed out that the British Council and Colonial Office Hostels are not only inadequate with regard to space but that the rates charged per week put these Hostels out of bound to the average Student. The delegates were also shocked to learn that the rate was not fixed out of consideration of the Student's financial position, but instead, according to the change in the cost of living in Britain.

With regards the second point the conference felt that the amount of places reserved for Colonial and Dominion Students were inadequate. It also felt that because of the inconvenience caused through the unofficial colour prejudice many students are now forced to spend much longer to complete their studies, and this not only throws an unfair burden on the students' parents but in many cases leads the Student himself to a state of frustration.

No Social Life

And lastly, the conference proved that because of the lack of integration of the Student into University are the Social Aspects of his Education is sadly lacking. Coupled with this was the complete lack of sport facilities for Colonial and Dominion Students.

The Conference was a great success and it has left the Committee a huge task, but before we can accomplish much every student and every worker must unite in fact and work together as a real Co-ordinating Council.

LITERATURE

THUNDER—Progressive monthly (British Guiana), 4d. per copy or 5/6 per year, Post Paid.

FORWARD TO FREEDOM,
by Richard Hart 1/6

TERROR IN KENYA—The background:
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